

Report of Accomplishments Stevens County Conservation District

July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

Natural Resource Improvements Summary:

- Utilizing Conservation Commission and Ecology cost-share funding, several projects were started and completed during the year.
 1. One landowner installed a solar-powered pump and a fence in order to water his 18-cow/calf pairs away from 1000 feet of very visible section of the Colville River near Chewelah.
 2. The owner of the Meyers Falls Power Plant planted 300 woody vegetation in half-acre area south of the forebay for the dam in order to meet FERC regulations to attempt to decrease water temperature.
 3. One landowner fenced his 50 to 70 sheep away from Chewelah Creek and established an off-channel watering station.
 4. Five landowners signed agreements to develop off-channel watering systems for livestock. Two projects were completed and paid for during the reporting period involving 250 cow/calf pairs. The remaining three will be completed in the summer of 2004. The three landowners will be watering approximately 725 cow/calf pairs among them.



Mission of the Stevens County Conservation District:

To promote the wise use of the renewable natural resources within Stevens County Conservation District.

Water Quality Implementation:

- 626 water quality samples were taken in WRIA 59 resulting in the analysis of 2,574 samples.
 - The District contracted with the Biological Engineering Systems Department of Washington State University to complete the Pingston Creek Watershed Planning Project.
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Basic Funding:

- Basic funding was placed in the general fund and not tracked separately.
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Local Funding:

- The \$6,000 received from Stevens County was placed in the general fund and not tracked separately, but was basically used as grant match.
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Dairy:

- Staff has provided 260.5 hours of technical assistance to 13 remaining dairy producers in Stevens County, and 18 hours of technical assistance to 6 dairy producers in Spokane County.
 - Ten out of thirteen dairy producers in Stevens County received inspections from Tania Reynolds, Department Of Agriculture Dairy inspector, accompanied by District and NRCS staff.
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Community Collaboration and Coordination:

- The Stevens County Conservation District Annual Meeting and Board of Supervisor Election were held in conjunction with the Stevens County Weed Board with 65 in attendance.
- District staff has attended three Cattlemen's meetings.
- District has worked with the Cattlemen's and the Farm Bureau REGARDING THE Critical Area Ordinance
- District has participated in the Colville River Fecal Coliform TMDL process.
- District has participated, reviewed, and commented on draft documents for WRIA 59 process.

- District participated with the Local Working Group, which has spent \$600,000 on EQIP projects in Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens County Conservation District's.
- The District completed its tenth year of working with Northwest Alloys, Inc. and the Washington Department of Ecology in the clean-up efforts at the L-Bar site south of Chewelah. The District has been working with Northwest Alloys for over three years at the Addy Plant site conducting water quality monitoring. Number of samples is included in water quality implementation section.
- The District continues to work with the City of Chewelah and the two landowners concerning the clean-out and maintenance of the two sediment settling basins constructed in the Chewelah Creek Watershed using Commission funds in 1996. Enough material has been removed from the two ponds to cover a football field to a depth of greater than 6 feet.
- The District has participated in the Critical Areas Ordinance Growth Management Act for Stevens County.

Information and Education:

- The District hosted four youth educational events attended by 762 students from 31 schools located in Stevens County.
- Over 10,000 Stevens County residents attended the Northeast Washington Fair and viewed the District's "Cost-Share Opportunities" display
- Eighty-seven articles, ads, and legal notices appeared in the three county newspapers.
- The District newsletter was distributed three times to 3,000 landowners.
- The District provided telephone, in office, or on site contacts with 1,490 landowners and an additional 2,800 letters were mailed to Stevens County residents.
- The District documented progress with 142 pictures.
- The District held 4 water quality workshops throughout the county; Springdale, Chewelah, Colville, and Northport. GIS maps were generated to give the public a graphical representation of monitoring efforts and results in their portion of the county. Over 25 people attended the workshops.
- The District, in conjunction with a local feed store, sponsored a pasture management and high-tension electric fencing workshop in Chewelah. Ten people attended the workshop that included going to a local farm for a hands-on period of fence construction.
- The Pingston Creek Watershed Management Committee was formed and continues to meet to develop the Pingston Creek Watershed Management Plan. Attendance at the meetings averages 10 people.
- The District held a Cost-Share Program Workshop in Colville. Over 30 people attended the workshop. As a result of informing the public about District programs, over 35 cost share projects are being considered, under contract, or have been completed.



Board Of Supervisors:

- Tom McKern, Chairman
- Bob Playfair, Vice-Chairman
- Margaret Tokach, Treasurer
- Pete Guglielmino, Member
- Andy Kroiss, Member

Staff:

- 3 full time staff
- 3 part-time staff

Approved at August 12, 2004 Board Meeting:

Chairman _____

Date _____